

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 INRE-00
SSO-00 /031 R

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APPROVED BY EB/OA:MHSTYLES
CAB:JHORNEMAN
EA/TIMBS:FRITTS

-----035356 172318Z /63

O 172257Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, SN

SUBJECT: FLYING TIGER OPERATIONS IN SINGAPORE

REF: SINGAPORE 0228 AND PREVIOUS

1. FLYING TIGER REPRESENTATIVES HAVE INFORMED
DEPARTMENT AND CAB THAT THEY FIND GOS CONDITIONS
WHICH LIMIT THEIR OPERATIONS IN SINGAPORE TO A TWO-WEEK
TEMPORARY PERMIT, PLUS A FORTNIGHTLY RENEWAL COST
OF SIN DOLLARS 1,000 AS WELL AS REFUSAL TO ALLOW
FTL TO CARRY TRAFFIC ORIGINATING IN THE US AND DESTINED
FOR SINGAPORE ON FLIGHTS 45/48 TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE.
FTL FEELS SO STRONGLY ABOUT THIS THAT THEY HAVE
INSTRUCTED THEIR REPRESENTATIVE IN SINGAPORE TO
ADVISE GOS THAT IF RESTRICTIVE PROVISIONS REMAIN
FTL WILL NO LONGER SUPPORT SIA APPLICATIONS BEFORE
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US AUTHORITIES.

2. AS EMBASSY HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY INFORMED DEPARTMENT
IS CONCERNED BY THE TURN OF EVENTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN
PLACE. THE AGREEMENT WHICH WAS REACHED LAST YEAR,
WHEN THE MOU WAS SIGNED, ENVISAGED A BALANCED AND
VIALE AVIATION RELATIONSHIP. WHEN, AFTER SIGNATURE,

GOS CHANGED ITS INTENT FROM THAT WHICH IT HAD

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED IN REGARD TO A CARGO OPERATION, BOTH THE DEPARTMENT AND CAB COOPERATED TO THE FULLEST IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE THAT APPLICATION. UP TO NOW THERE HAS BEEN NOTHING BUT SUPPORT FOR SIA. HOWEVER, WITH THIS CONTINUING SERIES OF DELAYS, PROBLEMS AND CHANGES IN REGARD TO THE FTL APPLICATION, WHICH ARE NEITHER WITHIN THE SPIRIT OF THE AGREEMENT NOR ENVISAGED AS PART OF A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL OPERATION, THE DEPARTMENT IS SERIOUSLY DISTURBED THAT THESE PROBLEMS CAN ARISE PRIOR TO THE RATIFICATION OF THE BILATERAL.

3. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT WISH TO CREATE PROBLEMS WHERE NONE EXIST, YET IT FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE IS ACTING WITH THE SAME OBJECTIVES NOW THAT PREVAILED DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS. WE WOULD HOPE THAT A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM CAN BE EXPEDITIOUSLY REACHED SINCE THE DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT LIKE TO FIND IT NECESSARY TO MAKE A NEGATIVE RECOMMENDATION TO THE PRESIDENT WHEN IT IS NECESSARY FOR HIM TO PASS ON ANY OF THE PENDING SINGAPORE AIRLINE APPLICATIONS.

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4. THE EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE A DEMARCHE AT THE HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL WITH REGARD TO THE REFUSAL TO ALLOW FTL CARRY US-SINGAPORE TRAFFIC, DRAWING UPON THE MATERIAL CITED ABOVE IN AN ATTEMPT TO HAVE THE GOS AUTHORITIES AMEND THEIR PLANNED RESTRICTIVE ACTION TO REGULATIZE FTL'S APPLICATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. EMBASSY NEED NOT RAISE QUESTIONS OF TEMPORARY PERMIT OR COST OF RENEWAL IF IT BELIEVES DOING SO WOULD COMPROMISE ACHIEVING MAIN OBJECTIVE. IF THIS IS DONE, THE DEPARTMENT SEES NO DIFFICULTIES IN PRECEDING WITH THE SIGNING OF THE PENDING AGREEMENT OR WITH DEFENDING ITS EARLIER POSITION VIS-A-VIS SINGAPORE'S PENDING APPLICATIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES, LICENSES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE013024
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RABROWN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780025-0661
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780153/aaaabsuj.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 48c2cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SINGAPORE 228
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3760087
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FLYING TIGER OPERATIONS IN SINGAPORE
TAGS: EAIR, SN
To: SINGAPORE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/48c2cfe2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014